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Message Text

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USINFO FOR PGM/RC - VOA/PE - PGM/PP. PASS EU. PASS PGM/FW.
OSD FOR ISA-ILN. JAMES FOR SOE. MILDENHALL FOR OI. PARIS FOR
PRESS ATTACHE. USCINCEUR FOR PAO. USICA USNATO BRUSSELS FOR
DEAN CLAUSSEN. AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR USEC. SECSTATE ALSO PASS
EUR VINES AND FUNSETH.

LONDON NEWSPAPER SUMMARY FOR MONDAY AUGUST 21ST., 1978.

ADD 1....UPPICKING X X X WEST'S ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA."

LAW OF THE SEA:
TIMES EDIT: "NOT TOO MUCH SHOULD BE EXPECTED OF THE SHORT
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SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE WHICH
STARTS IN NEW YORK TODAY. IT IS BEING HELD MAINLY BECAUSE THREE
OF THE EIGHT WEEKS LAID DOWN FOR THE SESSION IN GENEVA LAST
SPRING WERE SPENT IN STERILE DEBATE, OF A PROCEDURAL AND
LEGALISTIC KIND, ABOUT THE CREDENTIALS OF THE CONFERENCE'S
PRESIDENT. THE FIVE WEEKS THAT REMAINED, HOWEVER, BROUGHT
UNEXPECTED AND GRATIFYING PROGRESS, AND THE NEW YORK SESSION

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IS AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM ACHIEVED.
THE MAIN AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT HAVE FLUCTUATED OVER THE FOUR YEARS OF SERIOUS TALKS SINCE THE CARACAS CONFERENCE OF 1974. EVERY OF OFTEN AN ISSUE THOUGHT TO BE INTRACTABLE SUDDENLY BECOMES AMENDABLE TO SETTLEMENT, WHILE OTHERS THOUGHT TO BE EASY TO RESOLVE PROVE TROUBLESOME. THE GENEVA TALKS SENSIBLY ISOLATED SEVEN SPECIFIC ISSUES ON WHICH, AT THE TIME, MOST CONCILATION NEEDED TO BE DONE, AND SET UP NEGOTIATING GROUPS TO DISCUSS THEM. THE NEW YORK MEETING WILL FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN, AND THE VARIOUS STRANDS, WITH LUCK, WILL BE DRAWN TOGETHER EARLY NEXT YEAR AT WHAT IS HOPED WILL BE THE FINAL WORKING MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE. THE FORMAL SIGNING OF THE NEW LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION COULD, THEREFORE, TAKE PLACE IN LATE 1979 OR, ALLOWING FOR SOME SLIPPAGE, IN 1980. IT WILL, OF COURSE, TAKE SEVERAL YEARS MORE FOR THE CONVENTION TO COME INTO FORCE AND FOR THE INSTITUTIONS CREATED UNDER IT TO BE ESTABLISHED.
THREE OF THE SEVEN NEGOTIATING GROUPS DEAL WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF DEEP-SEA MINING: THE NATURE OF THE REGIME TO BE SET UP, THE FINANCIAL AND CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS GOVERNING IT, AND THE POWERS OF COUNCIL WHICH IS TO RUN IT. THE LAST OF THESE HAS GIVEN RISE TO A CLASSIC DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD, WHICH HAVE NEITHER THE MONEY NOR THE TECHNOLOGY TO CONDUCT THE MINING BUT WOULD, ONE A ONE-STATE ONE-VOTE SYSTEM, HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL IT, AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE INDUSTRAILIZED WORLD, WHICH HAVE ALL THE KNOW-HOW AND THEREFORE DEMAND A VOICE STRONGER THAN THEIR NUMERICAL
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REPRESENTATION OVER DECISIONS ON MINING OPERATIONS. BROADLY THE SAME GROUPS ARE IN DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF FINANCE THAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED STATES, AND ESPECIALLY FROM THE UNITED STATES, WHOSE MINING COMPANIES CONTINUE TO WAIT FOR THE GO-AHEAD TO START OPERATING, WHETHER THIS COMES ABOUT BY AGREEMENT AT THE CONFERENCE OR BY UNILATERAL UNITED STATES LEGISLATION."

CARTER POLICIES:
DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE BY ROBERT STRAUSZ-HUPE: "....THE QUESTION NEEDS TO BE ASKED AS TO WHETHER (THE PRESIDENT) HAS UNDERSTOOD, IF NOT THE SOVIET THREAT, THEN AT LEAST ITS MAGNITUDE AND ITS TARGETS....A GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICANS AS WELL AS THEIR FRIENDS ABROAD ARE BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S STATED POLICIES DO NOT HANG TOGETHER...."
END ITEM. USICA LONDON

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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